



TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman

October 10, 2003

RE: Docket #03-00526

Dear Interested Party:

At the regularly scheduled Authority Conference on September 22, 2003, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") considered and endorsed the use of mediation for creation and/or modification of the ILEC's batch hot cut process and also accepted my offer to serve as a mediator in TRA Docket No. 03-00526 to facilitate this effort.

In my experience, mediation often provides parties with the environment and ability to pursue creative solutions in a less adversarial manner than with a traditional contested case hearing. Given the time constraints for implementation of the batch hot cut process, mediation may also prove to be the most efficient use of time and resources for the parties, as well as for state commissions and their staff.

As envisioned in the TRO and in previous TRA dockets, certain issues may also effectively lend themselves to regional discussions and workshops and even possibly to resolution on a regional basis. To that end, I would like to offer my time and services as a mediator to those parties intending to address this issue in Tennessee and elsewhere with the goal of possibly developing a regional approach to the batch hot cut process.

Please respond to me directly as mediator by Monday, October 20, 2003 regarding (1) the potential use of mediation for this issue, and (2) any specific suggestions for commencing a regional dialogue with your counterparts.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you over the coming months in creating a workable batch hot cut process in the most expedient way possible.

Sincerely,

Deborah Taylor Tate
Mediator

DTT:met



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